Setting up of Joint Business Council between India and Oman

5106. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Oman have agreed to set up a Joint Business Council (JBC) for exchange of business information and increased business interaction between the two countries, as reported in a news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 20.4.95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India and Oman have also agreed for collaboration in Oil Exploration, Gas Projects for Oman Gas Pipeline, Joint Venture in Shipping etc; and

(d) what are the items for import/export and whether rice and tea are included therein with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. An Agreement was signed on 19th April, 1995 at New Delhi between the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) from the Indian side, and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry to set up a Joint Business Committee (JBC). The JBC aims at fostering friendship and understanding between the business communities of India and Oman, and promoting Cooperation in trade, investment, technology transfer, service and other industrial sectors between the two countries.

(c) An Agreement on Principal Terms with Oman on the pipeline project was signed in 1994. Interest has been expressed from both sides to explore possibilities of cooperation including joint ventures in the shipping sector. Both sides also explored possibilities of collaboration in oil exploration but no agreement was concluded.

(d) The major items of India's exports to Oman are rice, tea, oil meals, meat and preparations, basic chemicals, engineering goods, textiles etc.; and the major items of India's imports from Oman are fruits and nuts (inculding cashewnuts and dates), non ferrous metals etc. Details and statistics are available in the DGCI&S's publications "Foreign Trade Statistics of India" available in the Parliament Library.

Border trade between Myanmar and India

5107. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether border trade has been resumed between Myanmar and India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the commodities to be traded between the two countries on the resumption of border trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Border Trade between India and Myanmar was opened officially with effect from 12th April, 1995. Initially, the trade will be conducted through Morch in Manipur. The Border Trade between the two countries can be conducted in all commodities which are permitted to be traded as per the Export Import Policies of the two countries.